



*Office of the United States Attorney  
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **CALIF. MAN ARRESTED FOR FRAUDULENT RIVER PERMIT SCHEME IN GRAND CANYON**

*A second Calif. man remains at large*

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. - Stephen E. Savage, 61, of Diamond Bar, Calif., was arrested without incident at the Grand Canyon River Orientation Center at Lee's Ferry on Sunday, June 18, 2006 by officials of the National Park Service based on a criminal complaint charging him with 11 counts relating to fraudulently obtaining noncommercial river permits for the Colorado River through Grand Canyon National Park.

A co-defendant, Timothy J. O'Shaughnessy, 45, of Whitewater, Calif. remains at large and is believed to be in Calif. Anyone with information on his possible whereabouts is encouraged to call the National Park Service at 1-928-638-7972.

The complaint alleges that the pair conspired to fraudulently obtain noncommercial river permits for the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon by using the identities of deceased or fictitious people. Savage is scheduled for an initial appearance in federal court in Flagstaff, Ariz. today at 10:00 a.m. in front of U.S. Magistrate Judge Mark E. Aspey.

"We have a system in place to provide fair and equitable access to those who wish to take a private river trip on the Colorado River," said Joseph Alston, Superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park. "Over 7,000 people are on a waiting list for private river permits. Those who abuse the system do so at the expense of those who have gone through the process and have waited for many years to take a trip. We have a responsibility to boaters who go through the process to investigate charges of abuse."

According to the National Park Service, the waiting time for a private river permit had been between 10 to 15 years until they changed to a lottery system this year to eliminate the backlogged waiting list.

The charges are all misdemeanors. A conviction for giving false or fictitious information on an application for a permit carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$5,000 fine and/or five years probation. A conviction for knowingly and intentionally conspiring to violate the terms and conditions to obtain a noncommercial river permits for the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$5,000 fine and/or five years probation. A conviction for knowingly violating the terms and conditions to obtain a noncommercial river permit for the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$5,000 fine and/or five years probation. In determining an actual sentence, the assigned Judge will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The

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judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

A criminal complaint is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation in this case was conducted by officials from the National Park Service from Grand Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. The prosecution is being handled by Camille Bibles, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Flagstaff, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: 06-4116M

RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-102(Savage, et.al)

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